

105 FM and 1143 AM
Telling the Spangdahlem story
Monday through Friday

News Briefs

50th Anniversary celebration

The 52nd Fighter Wing celebrates its 50th anniversary May 9 and 10. The celebration kicks off May 9 at 4 p.m. with a formal retreat ceremony at the wing headquarters building.

An open house takes place May 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in hangar 1. All U.S. and host nation ID card holders are invited and can escort non-ID card holders by providing the guest's name, vehicle license and identification numbers (social security or passport number) no later than May 2. Information should be sent by e-mail to 52fw.cra@spangdahlem.af.mil. Sponsors will be required to escort guests onto the base, as well as during the visit.

New nametags

United States Air Forces in Europe authorized funds to purchase the new service dress nametags for all command enlisted troops. Squadron orderly rooms are submitting names to the 52nd Comptroller Squadron to order nametags. Airmen who have already ordered their own nametags will receive an extra.

Award winner

The 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's Traffic Management and Vehicle Maintenance flights won the 2002 U.S. Air Forces in Europe and 3rd Air Force Transportation Awards. The team, which will now compete at the Air Force-level, supports aerospace expeditionary force deployments and redeployments, and keeps a vehicle fleet 93.5 percent commissioned.

Spouses group

The Equipment Maintenance Squadron spouses group meets Tuesday at the Spangdahlem Chapel Annex, building 135 at 6:30 p.m. Call Jolene Vorbeck at 06565-933487 for details.

Rider course

A motorcycle experienced rider course takes place at Spangdahlem Air Base with a classroom portion on May 2 from 5-9 p.m. in building 316 and the class continuing on May 3 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the range portion in front of hangar 1, building 35. Attending the training course is one of several requirements to obtain a USAFE valid motorcycle license. For more information, call the wing ground safety office at 452-7233 or 452-6543.

Correction

Tech. Sgt. Kristi Irwin's first name was incorrectly spelled in the April 11 edition.

See Briefs, Page 2

Safety
first

The wing ground safety team wins Air Force level safety award.

Read ground safety
article on Page 4

Eifel Times

Vol. 37, Issue 15

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

April 25, 2003

Sergeant Fix-It

Staff Sgt. Sedrick Byrd, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron jet mechanic, prepares a portion of an engine for a quality assurance inspection. Read more about the jet engine intermediate maintenance section on Page 2.

Airman 1st Class Amaani Lyle

Spangdahlem airmen continue support
of Iraqi Freedom during war drawdown

22nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron Stingers meet challenges of building operations center from ground up despite weather, limited transportation

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

While some people may look ahead to the end of war, a group of airmen from Spangdahlem Air Base is still focusing on the job at hand.

This group of pilots, maintainers, technicians and support troops from the 22nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron has been deployed to a forward location supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom for more than three months.

"We are still flying missions, but it is more of a presence over Iraq rather than employing weapons," said Lt. Col. Grant Bishop, an F-16CJ pilot. "We are there in case a hot spot erupts somewhere."

Just a few weeks prior, it was Lt. Col. Bishop's job to find Iraqi radar sites and destroy them. His weapon of choice was a high-speed anti-radiation missile, capable of homing in on enemy radar emissions. He also escorted other bombers and fighters, acting as a \$20 million bodyguard.

"We got shot at a lot," said Capt. Mark Van Brunt, also an F-16 pilot. "I saw bullets and (surface-to-air missiles) coming right at me. It was pretty intense, but that was when the training kicked in."

This is what fighter pilots had been preparing to do for more than 12 years, in training scenarios and during Operations Northern and Southern Watch missions.

"The execution was just like our training," said Lt. Col. Hank Reed, 22nd EFS commander. "We were well prepared for this."

The preparation was evident by their success rate. With the help of their agile fighters, these F-16 pilots prevented any coalition aircraft they were watching from being shot down.

"We just focus on one mission at a time," said 1st Lt. Frank Lusher, an F-16 pilot. "We're all working together for a cause, and that keeps us motivated."

This feeling of pride isn't exclusive to pilots.

"I saw F-16s coming back here safely after being shot at and it made my job worthwhile," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Noll,

Staff Sgt. Derrick C. Goode
Maintainers from the 22nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, work on an F-16CJ at a forward location supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Though the war appears to be drawing down, those deployed with the 22nd EFS still have an important job to do.

life support technician.

Staff Sgt. Noll, also deployed from Spangdahlem AB, maintains pilots' safety equipment, which can range from anti-G suits and vests to survival kits and parachutes.

"If I don't do my job properly, a parachute may not deploy or a pilot could pass out from lack of oxygen," he said.

Although the war may be drawing to a close, the airmen continue to face the same challenges.

Life in the sandy, sweltering desert is a 180-degree difference from the crisp air and mountainous terrain of Germany.

"The dust is a never-ending battle," Staff Sgt. Noll said. "We have to keep it away from our oxygen equipment. We're constantly cleaning masks with alcohol."

The dust isn't the only problem. The base's already limited amenities were straining under the burden of increasing size.

See Freedom, Page 2

Jet propulsion teams work ‘round the clock,’ keep Spang birds in flight

Story and photo
by Airman 1st Class Amaani Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Atop a small hill near the flight line sits a hangar whose appearance doesn’t let on to the complex mission-essential activity going on within.

Despite a recent drawdown in the war, the 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron Jet Engine Intermediate Maintenance Section has increased both manpower and hours to be the “wind beneath the wings” of Air Force F-16 aircraft.

According to Master Sgt. Gregory Mann, 52nd CMS JEIM section chief, augmentees have stepped in from an unprecedented number of U.S. bases in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to sustain 24-hour operations.

“We’ve gone to round-the-clock operations with staggered days off and three shifts,” said Tech. Sgt. Gregory Rogers, 52nd CMS JEIM production supervisor.

Added Master Sgt. Mann, “(The team members) are almost in control of their own fate to make sure all tasks are completed during an eight-hour shift so that we don’t have

to go to a 12 (hour shift).”

The section chief also explained that the cross-section of personnel, especially from the Air National Guard and Reserve, has brought an unexpected exchange of ideas and increased productivity.

“We’re finding that the Guard and Reserve does a lot of things very smartly and we’re paying attention to that,” he said.

“We all have the same set of technical data that we follow, but everyone attacks a task in a different way,” said Master Sgt. Mann. “This is giving us all a better understanding of how to do things more efficiently.”

The section chief cited a number of bases from which augmentees have arrived to support the mission to include Westfield Air National Guard Base, Mass., Buckley ANGB, Colo., Dannelly ANGB, Ala., Bradley ANGB, Conn., Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., Cannon AFB, N.M. and even two inbound mechanics from Misawa Air Base, Japan.

It seems the extra help is proving worthwhile, since the shop’s aerospace propulsion craftsmen comprise one of only two shops in the world performing intermediate level main-



Airman 1st Class Macy Macnealy, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron mechanic, repairs an F-16 engine. She is here TDY at from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

tenance and inspections on all General Electric F-110 engines in Europe and those used in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Master Sgt. Mann said the secret to the shop’s success has been primarily due to the production supervisors’, or “floorwalkers” expertise and their ability to share that knowledge with newer airmen.

“We have 122 tasks that our mechanics need to be able to complete without assistance,” said the section chief. “I’ve been (on base) two and one-half years, and we’ve not had one person fail to upgrade on time. That’s

attributable to our crew chiefs on the floor.”

With about 18 years of service to his credit, Master Sgt. Mann said his fervor for jet engine maintenance has evolved into a change of heart in his career and an awareness of his role in the war on terrorism.

“I expected to do four years and get out, but I soon realized how great a feeling it is to be a part of something bigger than I am,” he said. “If you enjoy tackling a challenge and watching that challenge take off down the runway in full after burner, then this might be the job for you, too.”

Accidents

By Iain H. Lotan
52nd Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis

Twenty-five Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past two weeks, five of which were classified as major. In addition, 36 citations were issued.

The first major accident occurred on L-46 just outside of Trier. An airman tried to negotiate a sharp turn on his motorcycle, leaned too much, fell over and slid into a guardrail. He was taken to the Bitburg Annex emergency room and was found to have minor injuries. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

The second major accident happened on A-131 towards Wiesbaden. An airman’s vehicle was rear-ended, causing him to rear-end the vehicle in front of him. The extent of injuries and vehicle damage is not known.

The third major accident occurred on B-53 between Trier and Schweich. An airman slammed on his brakes at the sight of animals in the road, causing him to slam into a concrete wall.

He said he waited at the scene for awhile, but seeing no vehicles, drove his car to a safe location and took the train to Speicher. The reporting officer noticed the airman gave conflicting accounts of what happened.

The officer charged the airman with failure to report an accident, which carries a punishment of 180-day suspension of his license. The airman was then taken Bitburg Annex emergency

room for treatment. The incident is still under investigation.

The fourth major accident happened on L-36 between Herforst and Speicher. An airman said he lost control of his motorcycle and slid into another vehicle. The airman received minor lacerations on his hands. Both vehicles were disabled.

The fifth major accident occurred on K-34 near Roht. An airman reported he lost traction on his motorcycle from applying the brakes too hard. This caused him to skid into a ditch. The airman wasn’t injured, but the vehicle was disabled and towed from the scene.

The 20 minor accidents involved:

- Two from inattentive driving
- Six from backing.
- Four from wildlife.
- Three from speed too fast for conditions.
- Four from others at fault.
- One in a parking lot.

As good weather approaches, motorcycles are expected to be on the roads more. However, unlike a car, a motorcycle provides very little protection for the driver.

About 80 percent of reported motorcycle crashes result in injury or death; a comparable figure for passenger cars is about 20 percent.

In 2000, motorcyclists were about 18 times as likely as pas-

senger car occupants to die in a traffic crash. During that year, 2,862 motorcyclists were killed and an additional 58,000 were injured in traffic crashes in the United States.

Of all motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes, 38 percent were speeding — about twice the rate for drivers of passenger cars or light trucks.

Myths and Truths

Myth: Helmets hamper peripheral vision.

Truth: No way. Normal peripheral vision is between 200 and 220 degrees. Federal safety standards require that helmets provide 210 degree of peripheral vision.

More than 90 percent of motorcycle crashes happen within a range of 160 degree of peripheral vision (most of the remaining crashes are rear-end collisions).

Myth: Helmets impair hearing.

Truth: A motorcyclist on the road will hear just as well or better with a helmet on as without one on, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Without a helmet on, the wind and sound of the engine are very loud, and any other important sounds must be even louder to compensate. With a helmet on, surrounding sounds are quieter, but in equal proportions.

What can be heard over wind and engine noise without a helmet on can be heard as well with a helmet on because the wind and engine noise are reduced.

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

Anti-war protests continue throughout Europe

The following protests are slated to occur within the U.S. Air Forces in Europe command during the next few weeks. All American forces members and their families are asked to be aware of their surroundings, and be vigilant in protective force protection measures.

■Worms, Germany — Anti-war demonstrations are scheduled to be held weekly on Wednesdays, with an estimated participation of 20 and low level of violence.

■Koblenz, Worms, Kaiserslautern, Bitburg — Anti-war demonstrations are

scheduled to be held weekly on Wednesdays and Fridays with low level of violence.

■Stuttgart, Germany — Anti-war demonstrations are scheduled to be held Saturday near Stuttgart’s city center. Non-violent protesters are expected to gather at Lautenschlagerstrasses and march to the Schlossplatz.

Separating, retiring overseas

People separating or retiring overseas who file a medical Veteran’s Administration claim are required to obtain a physical at Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center.

For details, call 452-6255 or e-mail 52mss.dpmar-s@spangdahlem.af.mil.

Freedom

Continued from Page 1

“When we got here, we were working out of a shack,” said Master Sgt. Stephen Farrell, 22nd EFS operations superintendent. “Everyone pitched in and built a functional operations center. We built desks out of plywood. As for the heat, well, the air conditioner can only do so much.”

Transportation is another issue. With five vehicles for 80 people, getting a ride is tough. “Everyone’s had to pitch in to get back and forth to the flight line,” Master Sgt. Farrell said. “People from almost every career fields have had their turn. Everyone’s giving 110 percent.”

Master Sgt. Farrell attributes this motivation

not only to necessity, but to a sense of purpose.

“War is a lot different from an exercise,” said Master Sgt. Farrell. “There’s a heightened sense of urgency during war, particularly when you’re carrying a gas mask around the clock or you’re Alarm Red in a bunker.”

Challenges aside, when questioned about their motivation, the deployed Spangdahlem troops seem to speak with almost one voice.

“We’re fired up to be playing even a small part in such an important operation,” Lt. Col. Reed said. “But it would be hard to stay motivated without the great support we’ve received from back home. The letters, cards, care packages and messages of support have been outstanding.”

Eifel Salutes

52nd Operations Group

Setting the standard was **Staff Sgt. Kirk Staadt** from the weapons standardization section. He was instrumental in helping the ops group prepare for deployment. **Airman 1st Class Nicolas Montgomery** of the ground and pavements section paved the way for a smooth and successful landscape project needed by the commander.

Dial "M" for marvelous — the telephone maintenance shop, particularly **Senior Airman Thomas Dantin** and **Airman 1st Class John Logue** spent countless hours getting the 23rd Fighter Squadron up to speed with new phones.

52nd Mission Support Group

We're not sure there's anyone on base who didn't pitch in for the following volunteer events ... Without further ado, behold the list, in no particular order, of those who helped.

Personnel processing center volunteers: **Mary Marchand; Jessee "Barbara" Shepard; Peggy Crawford; Andrew Crawford (youth); Carrie Crawford (youth); Peggy McKeever; James Hallett; Mary Schliebe; Brianna Rewey; Paul Montag; Rebecca Madere; Hilary Detmers; Andrea Edinges; Kate Klaiber; Jennifer Johnson; Nancy Carlson; Janet Johnson; Lauralee Ciranni; Gwen Parker; Karen Topolosky; Ashley Topolosky (youth); Tracy Hamilton; Karyn Kazimer; Heidi Cotton; Mia Checkley; Megan Tyndall; Cindi Moore; Thomas McCurdy; Tech. Sgts. Marie Jones, Kenneth Madere and Shawn Horges; Staff Sgts. Aaron Dean, Kurt Klaiber and Juan Cortez; Senior Airman Kathleen Meredith; Airmen 1st Class Eric Warren D. Fontanilla and Kristy Molinar; and Airman Kimberly Weaver.**

Family Assistance Center volunteers: **Sharon Berry, Karyn Kazimer, Peggy Crawford, Janet Johnson, Allison Carnahan, Hillary Detmers, Michaela Menschel, Keith Plouffe, Trevor Moone (youth), Megan Moone (youth), Nancy Carlson, Rebecca Madere, Melissa Hall, Peggy McKeever, Gwen Parker, Sarah Hinkson, Mary Marchand, Allison Sandor, Pacita Cayas, Deborah Plumley, Shawna Weeg, Linda McClemens, Laura Cluverius, Kate Klaiber, Gregory Marchand (youth), Joey Marchand (youth), and Tech. Sgts. Glenn Burrell and Ken Madere.**

NEO sponsor volunteers: **Sharon Berry, Kim Winters, Cindi Moore, Shawna Weeg, Debbie Pendergrass, Jerri Hoag, Keith Plouffe, Janet Johnson, Heidi Cotton, Hillary Detmers, Linda McClemens, Jason Greene, Laura Cluverius, Peggy McKeever, Karyn Kazimer, Deborah Plumley, Michaela Menschel, Kim Hofelich, Sarah Hinkson, Rebecca Madere, Stacy Simmons, Jennifer Beauchamp, Kathy Loo,**

Nancy Carlson, Mary Marchand, Lorilynn Lindmeier, Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Madere, Staff Sgt. Kurt Klaiber, and Senior Airmen Wayne Beauchamp and Kathleen Meredith.

High praise to **Staff Sgt. Laura High**, who supervised the proper shipment of 46 PODs and 16 aircraft engines with timeliness and accuracy. Amen to **Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Shannon** for reminding the Protestant Men of the Chapel of the importance of heroes and for encouraging us to be that someone who will stand up for what is right in our world today! ... Golly McGee! **Senior Airman Larissa McGee**, processed \$12 million worth of property in one month, maintaining an astonishing 99.99 percent accuracy rate. Taking it to the mat was **Eddy Mentzer**, who did an outstanding job organizing the AYA European Wrestling

Tournament. Team Eifel took first place with 7 European Champs to boot! ... Three for three! **Staff Sgts. Charles Lee, Margarita Atchley and Michelle Kling**, verified the accuracy of over \$3 million worth of information technology equipment on the network control center's massive computer equipment account.

52nd Maintenance Group

Seems **Staff Sgt. Jason Young** is an old hand at specialist expediting, a position

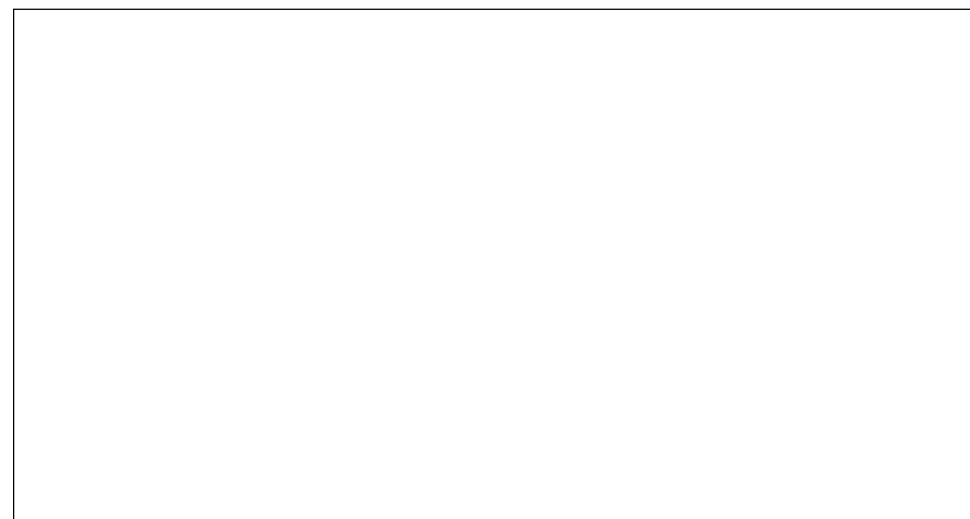
normally held by a highly-qualified senior NCO. His enthusiasm and dedication has reduced Tail Number Bin items by 75 percent and ensured all maintenance is complete, resulting in an 84.7 percent mission capable rate for March. He manages 15 Hawk maintainers in three different specialties. We're pumped up for **Senior Airman Patrick Compton**, a deployed fuel cell troop who has been recognized as Airman of the Month for the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Group.

52nd Medical Group

We can recall **Senior Airman Deanna Liggitt** and **Airman 1st Class Andrea Matusky** being proactive in gathering information for a mobility team recall list a day before it was due ... Evi-"dentally," **Tech. Sgt. Lynn Brannon** has done a super job ensuring all deployers are ready to go — from reviewing dental records to getting personnel awaiting clearance exams in for care. ... Oh behave! Many thanks to volunteer **Chris Hunt** for running the evening Behavioral Management Parenting classes! Finally, on a serious note, a grand salute to **Maj. Brenda Owen, Capt. Janice Berti, 2nd Lt. MarieLouise Assing, Master Sgt. Tilmon Hodges, Tech. Sgt. Bernard Kimbrough** and the entire **Family Care staff** for their colossal support of a squadron member who suffered a recent unexpected family loss. The team really pulled together to comfort and take care of her during this difficult time.

Kudos to all, Team Eifel salutes you!

(Compiled by Airman 1st Class Amaani Lyle, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)



Staff Sgt. Tim Cook

Tech. Sgt. Howard T. Bailey, 52nd Fighter Wing Ground Safety NCOIC, is this week's Top Saber Performer.

Top Saber Performer

Name: Tech. Sgt. Howard T. Bailey
Unit: 52nd Fighter Wing Safety
Duty title: NCOIC, Ground Safety
Hometown: Wherever the Air Force decides
Years in Service: 18

Nominee's contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success: Tech. Sgt. Bailey supervises a four-person ground safety team responsible for training wing members to live and work safely in the Eifel. He is instrumental in developing safety initiatives, and played a major role in Ground Safety garnering the highly-acclaimed Air Force Chief of Safety Outstanding Achievement Award for Ground Safety, said his supervisor, Lt. Col. John Specht, 52 FW safety chief.

Off-duty volunteerism and professional development pursuits: Tech. Sgt. Bailey is the founder and president of the 52 FW Tier Two, a professional organization for junior NCOs. He also takes classes at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University toward the completion of his bachelor's degree in aviation safety.

What do you do for fun? Or, What's a fun thing you've done lately? I enjoy traveling, camping and the outdoors with my family, said Tech. Sgt. Bailey.

What do you like most about being stationed here? The travel opportunities. I find the different cultures and rich history fascinating.

What's one thing you'd like to see changed or improved at Spangdahlem Air Base? I'd like to see more recreational opportunities created for Team Eifel's children.



Staff Sgt. Tim Cook

Members of the 52nd Fighter Wing Ground Safety Office make up part of this week's Top Saber Team -- The 52nd FW Safety Office.

Top Saber Team

Unit name: 52nd Fighter Wing Safety Office

Unit responsibilities: Supports the wing's combat mission by providing credible and consistent risk management guidance, maximizing mishap prevention, and fostering a safety conscious work environment.

Number of members: 15

Team's contribution to 52nd Fighter Wing's mission: The safety team helps to maximize combat readiness by developing, implementing, and evaluating aviation, ground, and weapons mishap prevention. It performs risk assessment of the wing's mission, contingency exercises, and conducts safety education on a variety of issues including automobile and motorcycle safety.

Team's other contributions through the year: Conducts various educational courses. Weapons safety continues to play a major role in the Rhein Main Transition Program by ensuring the construction initiatives associated with this plan meet the stringent explosive safety criteria set forth by the Air Force. Flight safety has provided the wing a much needed risk assessment as it transitioned to operations from the main runway to the much smaller and inherently more dangerous parallel taxiway. By helping to mitigate risk to an acceptable level, the initiatives, education and training provided by this team enhance the wing's ability to carry out its mission.

Help save lives

**Volunteer for
Airmen Against Drunk Driving
Call 452-2233**

TSP open season available

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Civilian and military employees can sign up for or change Thrift Savings Plan accounts during “open season” now through June 30.

“TSP is an easy, long-term retirement savings plan that everyone should consider,” said Maj. Alessandra Stokstad, chief of the Air Force Personnel Center’s contact center. “Current account holders might be interested, too, in transferring money from one fund to another — the TSP folks are set up to handle that.”

“Employees already contributing to the TSP are encouraged to review their TSP plan and account balances,” said Janet Thomas of the center’s civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck “so you never have to think about

it,” said Stokstad. “That makes it easy to ‘pay yourself first’ while only investing what you deem appropriate.”

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

Account changes made on or before May 31 will take effect June 1 for both military members and civilians. Changes made on or after June 1 become effective in the following pay period for civilians and the following month for military members.

People can choose which fund to contribute to by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>. Military members with general TSP questions can call the AFPC contact center at DSN 312-665-5000 or toll-free (866) 229-7074. (Air Force Print News)

STEPS to success

Master Sgt. Alex Ragnoli, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron security manager, gets stripes tacked on by his wife, Pam, and Col. Stephen Mueller, 52nd Fighter Wing commander. Master Sgt. Ragnoli received the promotion through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers Program.

Staff Sgt. Bonnie White

Ground safety team garners AF level award for base programs grounded in excellence

By Airman 1st Class Amaani Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

While safety in and of itself is not a new concept to wing members, the 52nd Fighter Wing Ground Safety flight has turned innovation into effectiveness and garnered the 2002 Air Force Chief of Safety Outstanding Achievement Award for Ground Safety.

In short, the Air Force has recognized the flight’s ability to “think outside the box” in promoting its main theme: prevention of mishaps.

The ground safety team is comprised of professionals with six to 12 years of experience in the field. Since selection and cross training into ground safety is required, personnel usually bring expertise from another area, such as fire protection or security forces, bolstering the effectiveness of its prevention programs.

“We do everything possible to mitigate the risk associated with our operations while still being able to accomplish the mission,” said Lt. Col. John Specht, safety chief. “Doing so requires an aggressive safety program that continues to look at fresh ideas. Our team spends a lot of time trying to figure out what can be done differently or better in this regard.”

The award-winning package outlined some of the most notable contributions to

base safety and its responses to the hazards potentially faced by some 15,000 military and civilian base people in 30 different groups or squadrons and 17 geographically-separated units.

“We brainstormed and developed ideas that might help curb the major accident trend we’re experiencing,” said Tech. Sgt. Howard T. Bailey, ground safety NCOIC.

“We’re not necessarily using new rules, but offering a new way of looking at old rules,” Tech. Sgt. David Scott, NCOIC inspections and hazards analysis said.

Among the highlights are the “101 Critical Days of Summer” campaign, including a Battle of the Groups competition. It also includes management of the most aggressive traffic safety program in U.S. Air Forces in Europe to encompass the driver’s computer training course, “under 26” course II refresher, and the mandatory pre-season motorcycle safety briefings, Lt. Col. Specht said.

Though the award was earned for the safety team having no reportable class A or B mishaps in 2002, smaller traffic mishaps remain one of the flight’s biggest challenges. Still, the team vigilantly continues to curtail the number of accidents, which the safety chief said is due in part to unpredictable weather conditions,

poorly marked roads, and the high speed in which drivers are allowed to operate vehicles on German roads.

The challenging environment that the Eifel region presents seems to also provide some insight to prevent potential hazards in deployed locations.

“When you’re deployed, the ops tempo is higher and the environment’s a little more primitive,” Tech. Sgt. Bailey said. “We may not have all the resources available to accomplish a task so there’s a chance of making more mistakes.”

To counter that, Lt. Col. Specht maintains on-going coordination with several deployed representatives covering ground, weapons and flight safety disciplines.

The team seems to work with dedication and comfort together. Included is in-house German civilian Helmut Rass, safety training and education specialist.

Another award winner is Tech. Sgt. James Douglas, mishap and investigation analysis NCOIC, who won the USAFE-level ground safety technician of the year award for his contributions to the shop.

“Not only do we have a great leader in Lt. Col. Specht, but we all work very effectively together regardless of reduced man-power to prevent mishaps and keep our personnel safe,” said Tech. Sgt. Bailey.

AAFES expands fuel program

MAINZ-KASTEL, Germany — ARAL gas stations located on German autobahns will soon accept AAFES fuel coupons. This initiative, which begins June 1, will allow customers additional flexibility when using gas coupons.

Currently, in Germany, AAFES gas coupons are accepted at all ESSO stations, BP stations on the autobahn, and selected BP stations in communities that do not have an ESSO station nearby.

As a result of a merger between British Petroleum and Veba Oil — which operates ARAL gas stations — all BP stations will be remodeled as ARAL stations by the end of this year. Existing German autobahn ARAL stations will significantly increase AAFES gas coupon acceptance for customers who travel extensively outside their local communities.

A listing of ARAL autobahn stations and select BP stations, in communities where there are no Esso or AAFES gas stations in close proximity, is posted at www.aafes.com under YOUR BX/PX.

People working at ARAL are currently being informed and trained to accept and process AAFES gas coupons. That training will take time, so AAFES managers caution customers to check with station operators before using AAFES gas coupons at ARAL autobahn stations.

“It is always a good idea to check before you pump,” said Ruth Wagner, a senior AAFES-Europe retail specialist, “in fact it’s a requirement of the coupon program.”

The current series of AAFES gas coupon booklets state that they are redeemable at ESSO and autobahn BP stations only. Additionally, these coupons will be accepted at ARAL autobahn stations starting June 1. (Army and Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs)

vRED

(Have you done it?)

vRED is the Air Force’s new Virtual Record of Emergency Data. All Air Force members are required to complete his or her vRED through the vMPF.

Team Eifel currently holds the best in command record, with 85 percent completion. However, it is essential that everyone update the vRED as soon as possible, according to Tech. Sgt. Diane Pierce, military personnel flight.

For more information on vRED, call Tech. Sgt. Pierce at 452-5519.

Cool runnings

Participants of all ages take part in a 5K run at the Fun, Run, Rock N’ Roll Block Party April 19 at Bitburg Middle School. About 425 people showed up at the event for an egg hunt, gymnastics, Tai Chi and Tae Kwon Do performances, a Bitburg Middle School Band concert and solo singing performance by Aerial East, a Bitburg High School student.

Staff Sgt. Karen Z. Silcott

Community Mailbox

CAC news

The following events take place at the community activities center. Call 452-7381 for more information.

■Operation Yellow Ribbon

Come support the troops by placing their name on a yellow ribbon being displayed in the community center lobby. See the front desk assistant for a ribbon.

■Chess club meets the first and third Saturday of the month. The next meeting takes place May 3 from noon to 3 p.m.

■People interested in playing bridge can stop by the community center.

Community Bank hours

Both branches of Community Bank are open shortened hours Tuesday due to an official function. The Bitburg Annex branch is open from 10 a.m. to noon. The Spangdahlem Air Base branch is open 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Service Credit Union

The Service Credit Union (SCU) provides the Euro Exchange rates daily via e-mail "free" to members and non-members. The e-mail includes the accommodation rate as well as the reconversion rate. To sign up, visit SCU's Euro Rate Watcher at www.servicecu.org. The daily Euro Exchange Rate is also available on SCU's Call 24 Line at 0800-732-8847.

Service Credit Union now provides laser-printed IRS tax forms for 2002. Forms can be obtained at any SCU branch office. Call 00800-4728-2000 for details.

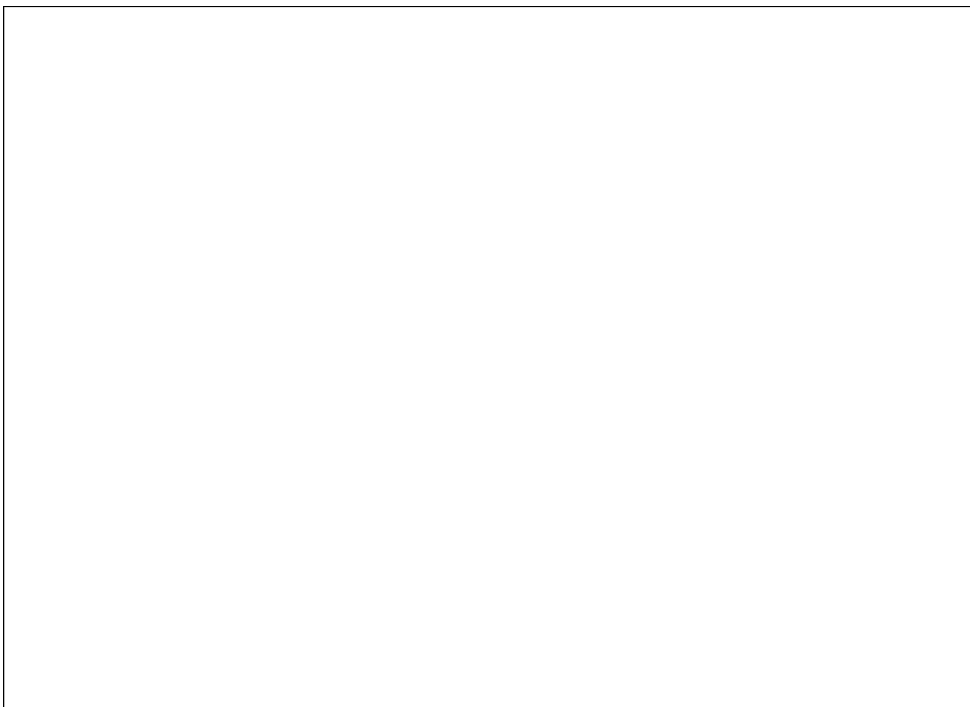
Saber Club news

The following events take place in the Saber club, unless otherwise noted. Call 452-6090 for details.

■Bingo, Monday nights, 7 p.m.

■Movie night, Tuesday nights, 6:30 p.m.

■Spoken Word Wednesday, first



Airman Heather Forrest

Steady hand

Art instructor, Kristin Sue Kim, shows Dave West, student, how to shade using a pencil to make gradient lines on April 10 at Spangdahlem skills development center. The center offers drawing, framing and landscaping courses in building 189. Call the administrative office to register for classes at 452-6841.

Wednesday of each month at 8-9:30 p.m.

■Karaoke, Wednesday, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

■Open mike night, Wednesday, 7:30-9 p.m.

Drawing contest

The Spangdahlem legal office sponsors a drawing contest for ages 6-11 and photo contest for ages 12-18 as part of Law Day 2003. Contest is open to Department of Defense Dependents Schools students at Spangdahlem Air Base and the Bitburg Annex. For more information call the legal office at 452-6934.

Spouses group

The Mission Support Squadron Spouses Group meets May 6 at 6:30 p.m. for a German blanket party in Badem. For more information, R.S.V.P. to Nichole Gonzalez by May 4 at 06563-930561 or e-mail piazano@hotmail.com.

Library news

The following National Library Week events take place in the Bitburg Annex Library

unless otherwise noted. Call for 452-9056 for more information.

■Children's storytime for children ages 2-5, each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

■The reading group discusses the book, "Hitler's Niece," by Ron Hansen Tuesday at 7 p.m.

School news

National Teacher Day

A tribute to Eifel schools' teachers takes place May 6, as students, parents, school administrators and the general public learn about and promote the teaching profession.

Call Laura Darden at 452-9215 for details.

Bitburg High School

The Bitburg American High School Drama Club presents an evening of varied theater with their production of three one-act plays: "The Lottery," "Drucilla's Decision" and "Trifles." Show times are May 9-10 at 7:30 p.m. and May 11 at 2 p.m. in the BHS cafeteria. The plays are free; donations are accepted at the door.

Spangdahlem elementary

This year's last public school board meeting takes place May 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the school media center. Topics include the lunch on campus policy. Those wishing to add an item to the agenda can send an e-mail to school.board@spangdahlem.af.mil no later than Wednesday.

Spangdahlem middle

A principal's chat takes place Monday at 3 p.m. in room 200.

Dessert and game night

The 606th Air Control Squadron spouses meeting takes place May 5 in the Bitburg Chapel, building 173 at 6:30 p.m. Call Lisa Weiss at 06568-969891 for details.

Chapel news

The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet Saturday at 11:30 a.m. in Spangdahlem building 139. Call the chapel or Elaine Washington at 452-6711 for details.

Employment opportunities

A local job fair takes place May 5 at the Spang Club from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Learn the facts on civil service employment. Briefings take place at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Call the Family Support Center at 452-9491 for details.

Family support news

The following workshops take place in Spangdahlem Air Base building 307. Call 452-9491 for details.

■Preseparation consultation, Monday at 9 a.m.

■Predeployment briefing for active-duty and family members, Tuesday at 1 p.m.

■German bills made easy workshop, Thursday and May 29 from 8-9 a.m.

■Sponsor training, Thursday from 10-11 a.m.

The following workshops take place in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call 452-6422 for details.

■Creative critters preschool playgroup, Monday at 10 a.m.

■Deployed movie night, Tuesday at 6 p.m.

■Career profiling, Wednesday at 1 p.m.

■Communication series, Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Der Markt

Free classifieds policy and submission deadlines

Der Markt is for the personal resale of items by military and civilian employees and their families. Items such as advertisements for rental property won't be published due to funded paper restraints. Ads should be 35 words or less and customers are limited to no more than two ads per week. Ads must be typed or printed legibly and turned into the public affairs office, building 23, at least **10 days before the desired date of publication**. Ads can also be e-mailed to publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil or sent via fax to 452-5254. Having ads in by deadline does not guarantee publication. Ads for services generating regular income will not be published. The ads must include the sponsor's name and telephone number. Ads not meeting these requirements, including those exceeding the designated word limits, will not be printed. The *Eifel Times* staff reserves the right to edit ads.

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Published
by Verlag &
Druck Wittich
KG, a private
firm in no way
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Col. Stephen Mueller

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a
way to get answers to questions
you still have after using your
chain of command.

Direct Lines of general
interest will be published in the
Eifel Times and may be edited or
paraphrased for brevity or clarity.
Submit your Direct Line via:

■DirectLine@spangdahlem.
af.mil

■Mailed to 52nd FW/PA,
Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE
09126

■To PA in building 23.
■Concerns may also be sent
via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are
accepted. To receive a personal
response you must include your
name and phone number. Call the
Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more
information.

Sortie
Scoreboard

Unit	Goal	Flown
22FS	57	48
23FS	89	48
81FS	79	88

Sorties flown
April 14-20

(Courtesy of the 52nd Maintenance
Squadron Plans and Scheduling Section)

Viewpoint

April 25, 2003

Page 6

Fraud Protection

Agencies help prevent ID theft

Capt. Antroy M. Murphy
52nd Fighter Wing Judge Advocate Chief of Civil Law

Identity theft or identity fraud is the taking of
someone’s identity for financial gain.

The thief uses the victim’s name to obtain cred-
it cards from banks and retailers, steal money
from existing accounts, apply for loans, establish
accounts with utility companies, rent an apart-
ment, file bankruptcy or obtain a job.

The impersonator steals thousands of dollars in
the victim’s name without the victim knowing
about it for months or even years. Recently crimi-
nals have been using unsuspecting victims’ identi-
ties during the commission of crimes ranging from
traffic infractions to felonies.

Victims of identity theft currently face multiple
hurdles in preventing further misuse of their iden-
tifying information and in correcting damage done
to their credit histories, reputations and lives by
identity thieves. Victims often spend many hours
just figuring out who to contact, the potential
scope of the damage, and what to do about it.

According to the Federal Trade Commission,
the first three prevention steps are the most impor-
tant:

First, contact the fraud departments of each of
the three major credit bureaus:

- Equifax: (800)525-6285, www.equifax.com
- Experian: (888)397-3742,
www.experian.com.

■Trans Union: (800)680-7289, www.tuc.com/
Second, contact the creditors for any accounts
that have been tampered with or opened fraudu-
lently.

Third, file a report with the local police or the
police in the community where the identity theft
took place.

Fourth, victims should file a complaint with the

“Victims of identity theft currently
face multiple hurdles in prevent-
ing further misuse of their identi-
fying information and in correct-
ing damage done to their credit
histories, reputations and lives by
identity thieves.”

FTC by contacting the FTC’s Identity Theft
Hotline toll-free at (877)438-4338; by mail:
Identity Theft Clearinghouse, FTC, 600
Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC
205080; or click on “file a complaint” at
www.consumer.gov/idtheft. The FTC collects this
information into a secure consumer fraud database
and may share it with other law enforcement

Military life

Airmen’s actions tell Air Force story
Military members should present positive image to global audience

By 2nd Lt. Anna Siegel
Air Combat Command Public Affairs Office

Reality programming has taken
over our televisions.

On any given channel on any
given day,
there seems to
be a set of
strangers or
celebrities
competing for
money, fame
or each other.
Millions of
viewers are
prive to
whichever
intimate
details about
these “players” the producers of the
shows decide to reveal.

This morning, as I laced up my
boots, made sure my hair was in reg-
ulation and used extra-heavy starch
to make my uniform look sharp, I

thought about what an Air Force
reality show would be like.

What would the military look like
to the eyes of America? What would
they think of us saluting each other
as we walked
by, driving so
slowly on per-
fectly clean
roads, always
making sure
our hats are on
or off when
they’re sup-
posed to be,
and that we get
in a few
“ma’ams” and
“sirs” with every conversation.

What would they think if we were
sloppy, overweight or, God forbid,
rude?

Would they be appalled by any
inappropriate relationships the pro-

ducers would choose to focus on?
Would they be disappointed when
airmen were arrested for behaving as
if they didn’t have any standards to
guide them?

Would they be inspired by our
camaraderie, built-in mentoring and
morale-building programs? Would
they be awed by the way we accom-
plish impossible missions time after
time?

I hope the truth is dawning on you
as it did on me.

There may not be camera crews
following us around 24/7, and we
may never have the opportunity to
vent to our viewing public in a pri-
vate moment. But the media or a
curious citizen just might approach
us for a comment, and to them we
speak for the Air Force.

We may not be competing for a
spouse, a record label or a million
dollars, but our fight is of vital

importance. We do what we do for
America.

Our lives can’t be captured in a
TV show, a season or even a long-
running series. We leave a legacy
that has impact far beyond what we
will ever see.

At the end of a show we can
change the channel or turn the TV
off and just as easily forget what it
was that we saw. But we can’t be
members of the world’s finest Air
Force only during our working hours
and then go home and turn it off.

Our audience lives in our homes,
across the street and across the
globe. Their eyes are not an invasion
of our privacy, they are a test of our
integrity.

So remember, my fellow airmen,
America and the world are watching
us. Your life tells the real Air Force
story.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless indicated.
More synopsis information is available at
www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp.

Bitburg Castle

Today
Tears of the Sun (R)
A team of Navy SEALs is sent into the jungle in the heart of Nigeria on a search-and-rescue mission for a doctor. (Violence, brutality and language.)

Saturday
Final Destination 2 (R)
Kimberly sees a vision. But is it also a warning? (Gruesome scenes, language, drug content and nudity.)

Sunday
Tears of the Sun

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday
Biker Boyz (PG-13)
An undefeated racer’s dominance of the motorcycle set is threatened by a young racing prodigy, who is determined to earn his coveted title.
(Violence, language and drug reference.)

Thursday
Final Destination 2

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today
The Hunted (R)
Tommy Lee Jones is an FBI deep-woods tracker who captures an assassin who makes a sport of killing deer hunters. (Violence and language.)

About Schmidt (R, 10 p.m.)
Warren is retiring, his only daughter is about to marry and his wife dies suddenly after 42 years of marriage. He is desperate to find something meaningful in his life. (Language and nudity.)

Saturday
Shanghai Knights (PG-13)
Chon Wang and Roy O’Bannon head to London, after Chon’s estranged father is murdered. Chon’s sister, Lin, also arrives and uncovers a plot to murder the royal family. (Violence and sexual content.)

The Hunted (10 p.m.)

Sunday
The Recruit (PG-13)
A young agent trainee suspects his instructor of being a double agent for the Chinese government. (Violence, sexuality and language.)

Monday
The Hunted

Tuesday
About Schmidt

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.

From witches to May poles ...

Local villagers spring into Labor Day fun

Story and photo by Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Tag der Arbeit, or Labor Day, is a national German holiday celebrated every May 1.

Germans celebrate the day with a variety of activities, such as rides, parades and May Day celebrations.

In the Eifel area, May Day customs and traditions are primarily observed by village youth. The youth usually arrange for entertainment, including celebrations, dances and musical events. The most common symbol of the holiday is the popular May pole.

The May pole has two different meanings. As part of the festive village custom, it is regarded as a symbol of freedom. In some areas it demonstrates hope for a good harvest. The May pole tradition dates back to the practices of the decoration-happy craftsmen of the Baroque period, and it is still well known and quite popular in Germany.

The dates the poles go up differ from region to region, ranging from the eve of May 1 until Pentecost. Young men, often bachelors or members of the volunteer fire departments, go into the woods and chop a tall, suitable tree, which is, in most cases, a fir picked out in advance.

The lower branches and twigs are chopped off, leaving only the treetop untouched. Then a tractor and trailer with the load are escorted back to the village and the strenuous task of raising the pole starts.

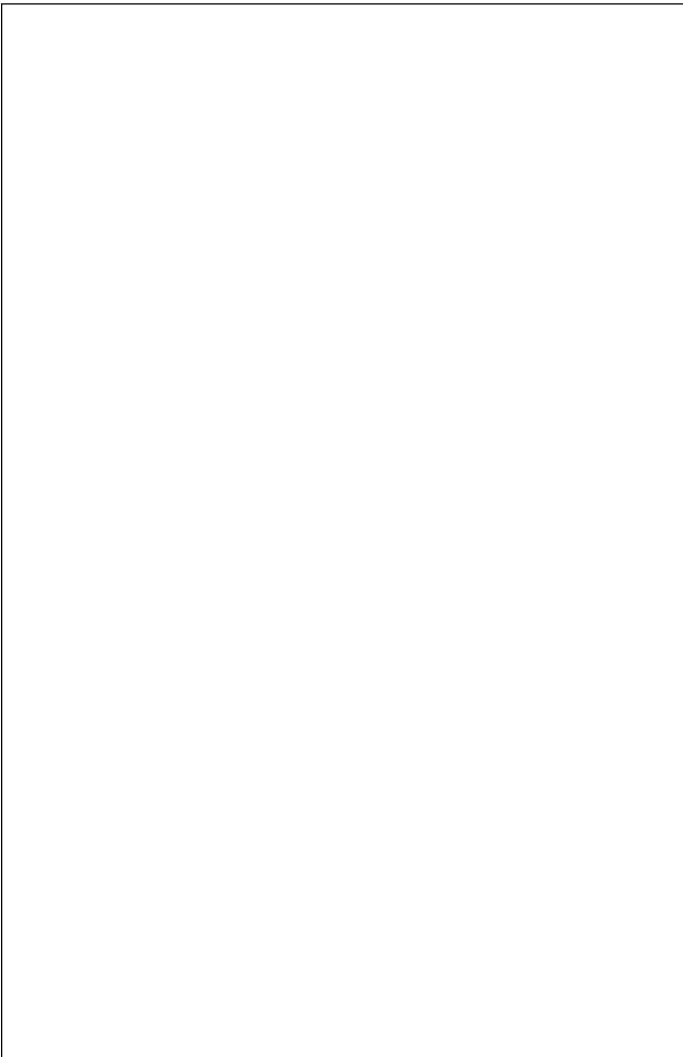
Once the pole is set up, the wreath, with its colored ribbons and garlands or other decorations such as sausages, ham and eggs, are attached.

In Bavaria and other areas of the country, the May pole must be climbed right away. The edible decorations are the reward for climbing the pole.

Since the May pole is still an object of prestige in some villages or towns, it must be guarded around the clock to protect against theft or destruction by young bachelor’s clubs from neighboring towns.

Another tradition connected with May Day is “witches night.” According to legends, witches travel through villages the night of April 30 removing doormats, flower pots or other unsecured items left outside. Although the culprits are more likely to be teen-agers than witches, people should practice caution and bring their unsecured items inside Wednesday night.

Another May Day custom is the popular Dance into May, held in a public spot of the village or at a local gasthaus.



May poles are an integral part of Tag der Arbeit, or Labor Day, a German holiday celebrated every May 1. People climb the pole to get the edible decorations. Germans celebrate this national holiday with dances, musical events, rides and parades.

May 1 is considered a day devoted to family and friends. Some German people get together and do either the traditional May Day walk or a joint excursion, while others have a barbecue.

Fishing has also become a popular and common May Day event in Germany.

Whatever people do, they should take it easy Wednesday evening and Thursday, making it a time of leisure and fun.

Out and About

(Editor’s note: Event dates and times are subject to change. To confirm event details, call the telephone information office at 11833 and ask for a number to the tourist office in the town the event takes place. For event tickets, call the Press-Center Trier at 0651-14599-30, the Trier Tourist Information Office at 0651-9780822 or the Trier Ticket Service at 0651-9941188, unless specified otherwise.)

■The Trier Wine and Gourmet festival takes place now through May 25. Activities take place in different gasthaus-es and public spots throughout the city.

■The 6th Annual Zeltingen Mosel Wine Days festival takes place May 2-4 in Zeltingen. More than 15 vintners present wines, music and entertainment. For more information, about this event call the Zeltingen tourist office at 06532-2404.

■Mardi Gras BB performs May 9 at the Kaiserslautern Kammgarn.

■Trier sponsors Ball of the Nations, May 10 at Trier University.

■Bruce Springsteen performs May 10 at the Ludwigshafen Suedweststadion.

■The Eifel Wanderers volksmarching club tours popular areas of Germany on foot. The club’s next trip is Hamburg

and Rissen May 10-11. The cost is 50 euro for adults, 25 for children. Call Theresa Stevens at 06569-963184 or e-mail chatterbox@gruenewald.de for information about the club.

■The Lords of the New Church perform rock music May 11 at Trier Exzellenzhaus.

■A car-free bicycling and roller skating day takes place May 18 between Konz and Merzig.

■A jazz festival takes place June 7-8 near the Trier Dom cathedral.

■Happy Mosel, a popular family biking event, takes place June 15 between the towns of Schweich and Cochem.

■The Rolling Stones perform June 22 at the Hockenheim race track.

■The Bitburg European Folk festival takes place July 10-13.

Outdoor recreation and ITT

Due to world events, all Information, Tickets and Tours and 52nd Services Squadron Outdoor Recreation trips are subject to change or cancellation. Each trip is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. ITT offers the following tours in May.

People should register for trips at least two weeks in advance. Children’s prices are for ages 3-12, unless specified otherwise. Call 452-6567 or visit the ITT office in the base community activities center for details.

■Keukenhof and Zaanse Schans, Holland, trip, May 3. Cost is \$70 for adults, \$60 for children.

■Mosel cruise, dinner and wine tasting, May 3. Cost is \$87.

■Payless budget Brussels trip, May 10. Cost is \$25.

■Paris overnight, May 10-11. Cost is \$189 for adults, \$139 for children.

■Rhein River cruise, May 11. Cost is \$39 for adults, \$34 for children.

ODR offers the following tours in May. The minimum age is 12, unless listed otherwise. People should register for trips at least two weeks in advance. Call 452-6567 or visit the ODR center in Spangdahlem AB building 146, near the Mosel Hall dining facility.

■Kyll River fun-yak trip, May 10. Cost is \$35. Minimum age is 14, unless accompanied.

■Luxembourg cave rappel, May 11. Cost is \$30.

Eubanks, Hernandez strike double gold

Cold weather chills track season opener

By Geary Schwartz
Bitburg High School Track Coach

The 2003 track season resumed for Bitburg High School athletes April 19 at Wiesbaden High School.

The Bitburg athletes were in top form despite the spring break layoff and the unseasonably cold weather.

Junior Chris Eubanks earned two first place medals in the discus (138-4.5) and shot put (44-8.5), setting personal bests in both events. Heading into the weekend's competition, Eubanks was ranked second in the discus and third in the shot put overall. Eubanks had previously qualified for the European Championship Meet, scheduled for May 21 to 22, in both events.

Freshman Carletta Hernandez set four personal records in her first high school track competition, placing first in the same two events as Eubanks. Hernandez tossed the 4-kilogram shot 30-10 qualifying for the European Championship Meet in the process.

In the discus, Hernandez won by more than 4 feet with a throw of 64-4. Hernandez's other events included the 100-meter run (11th, 15.6) and the 200-meter run (ninth, 33.6).

Sophomores Lance Hoffman and Jessica Greenwald also each set four personal records. Hoffman's efforts, in order of "best improvement" were the 400-meter run (sixth, 58.4), the 200-meter run (eighth, 26.5), the 100-meter run (seventh, 13.1), and the long jump (fifth, 15-7.5).

Greenwald, participating in her first competition this year, earned second place in the 300-meter low hurdles (60.7 seconds), fifth place in the 100-meter high hurdles (22), and sixth place in the long jump (11-4). Greenwald also competed in the 100-meter run (10th, 15.6), edging teammate Hernandez at the finish line.

Mike Bongiorno, from last year's team, competed for the first time this year with mixed results. Bongiorno placed well in the hurdles events but rolled an ankle, keeping him out of a later event and possibly out of the next track meet. Bongiorno placed fourth in the 110-meter high hurdles (19.3) and seventh in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles (50.4).

Seven teams from Divisions 1, 2, and 3, featuring approximately 150 athletes, participated in the day's activities.

Bitburg is a Division 2 school. Athletes placing in the top six in each event earned team points. Bitburg took home sixth place honors in both the boy's and girl's team scores. This weekend the team travels to Mannheim.

Power play

Charles Roberts, player for the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron intramural soccer team, takes the field April 7 at the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center. Intramural soccer matches take place each Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. For more information about soccer or other intramural sports, call the fitness center at 452-6496.

Senior Airman George Wolfe

Golf course offers spring special

With warmer weather and sunshine, May is an ideal time to kick off the golf season. To encourage beginners and seasoned swingers to get on the greens, the Armed Forces Recreation Center Golf Course in Garmisch, Germany, offers the Early Bird Special May 5-9, 12-16 and 9-23.

The Early Bird Golf Weeks include five days of instruction, equipment, video analysis, unlimited golf course play and an end-of-week tournament. The package price starts at \$189.

"Our golf instructors' teaching skills rank as high as the more costly golf schools in the U.S.," said Dave Chaffin, AFRC resorts golf course manager. "We don't use any new gimmicks, just solid techniques to improve anyone's game."

Golf weeks run Monday through Friday, and cover all aspects of the game. Monday mornings, professional instructors place participants into classes based on skill level. Beginners start at the driving range to learn the basic golf shot and other fundamentals. As skills progress, students learn full swings, chipping, putting and trouble shots. The week ends with a friendly best ball tournament.

For established links lovers, the AFRC golf instructors spend time observing the students play and give tips on how to lower players' scores.

"Whether you are looking to eliminate an ugly slice, or sink the fringe putts, you will be surprised how much personal instruction can help," said Mr. Chaffin.

The AFRC Golf School uses the latest technology to help analyze and improve a student's golf game. Video analysis allows the instructor to play back a student's swing so he or she can see first hand where improvements are needed.

The nine-hole course sits in the shadow of Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze. The course features a driving range, an additional three hole par-3 course, and a full-service restaurant called The Nineteenth Hole.

"We are extremely lucky to have such a beautiful golf course open to service members and their families," said Mr. Chaffin. "Regardless of how your round of golf may or may not be going, we definitely have a panoramic back drop that makes it all worthwhile."

This special, which may not be used in conjunction with any other promotion, is only available to guests staying at AFRC resort facilities.

To book a golf week or receive information on other programs or facilities, people can call 08821-72981, DSN 440-2575, or visit www.afrc europe.com. (AFRC Public Affairs)

Sports Shorts

May is fitness month

Spring into action with May Fitness Month, put on by the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center. May Fitness Month is designed to encourage those in the Eifel to become a healthier and fitter community.

The month kicks off with a 5K fun run. Other events include a Kuk Sol Won demonstration, climbing wall competition, softball tournament, circuit training classes, fitness assessments, introduction to weight training classes, an aerobathon, Spring into Fitness Challenge and finally, to finish it all off, Sports Day. Calendars with the dates and times of events are available at the fitness center.

The Spring into Fitness Challenge is a three-month program offered by the Health and Wellness Center in conjunction with the fitness center as part of fitness month. Participants will learn the fundamentals of weight loss, weight gain and how to decrease

body fat percentage by employing proper weight lifting techniques, basic workout routines, healthy cooking, sports nutrition and more. Sign up for the challenge at the fitness center.

Captain America and the Incredible Hulk visit the fitness center May 23. Call for details.

If interested in participating in any of the events, call the fitness center at 452-6251 or 452-6496 for details. Don't miss out on the fun and stay fit with the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center.

Boxing

The U.S. Forces Europe Boxing Championships take place May 1-4 in the fieldhouse at Grafenwoehr, Germany. Participation registration deadline is Tuesday. Call Bruce Cannady at 452-6496 for more registration information.

The event is open to male and female boxers in various weight categories. For more information, visit the Army-Europe Sports and Fitness Program Web site at www.mwr-europe.com.

Rugby players needed

The Spangdahlem-Trier Rugby Club seeks new players for their men's and women's teams. Experienced players and newcomers to the sport are welcome. Practices are from 6:30-8:30 p.m. each Monday on the field behind the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center.

For more information, send an e-mail to 52svs.rugby@spangdahlem.af.mil.

Aerobic instruction certification

The 86th Services Squadron Fitness Center at Ramstein Air Base offers the Aerobic and Fitness Association of America basic group certification course May 10 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The cost is \$255, plus \$44 for books. Payment is due upon registration deadline, May 2. The class is open to the first 50 registrants. Call Steve Smithers at DSN 480-7623 or 06371-477623 for details.

Indoor volleyball matches

Intramural indoor volleyball matches take place each Tuesday and Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. now through May 20 in the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center.

Youth sports news

The Spangdahlem AB youth sports program office is located in building 427. The Bitburg Annex youth sports program office is located in the fitness center. Call 452-7545 for more information.

Parents with youth 2-18 interested in participating in summer gymnastics can call youth programs at 452-7545.